Accident caused by a Truck Carrying Acid

2622. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minster of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the recent accident involving a truck carrying acid, resulting in 17 deaths;

(b) whether the Ministry of Surface Trasport had anticipated such accidents on the Roadways;

(c) if so, what arc the reasons for lack of any safety precautions instituted by Government; and

(d) steps proposed to institute measures to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The Government have always expressed its displeasure over such accidents. No accident, of whatever nature, can be anticipated. The Government have already provided sufficient safeguards under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules to prevent such accidents. The State Governments are also impressed upon from time to time to take adequate measures to properly implement these rules.

Rcconstitution of Port Trusts

2623. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Port Trusts of various Ports have been reconstituted recently;

(b) if so, who are the non-officials included in these trusts and what arc their credentials; and

(c) how many posts of Chairman of the Port Trusts arc vacant at the moment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Boards of Trustees for Kandla, Bombay. Mormugao, Cochin, Madras, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Calcutta Ports were reconstituted with effect from 1.4.1994. As per the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 besides Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and official Trustees representing various Central Government Department/ Ministries / Organisations/ State Goverments, the Central Government appoints such trustees as it may deem expedient to be appointed from amongst persons who in its opinion are capable of representing;

1. Labour employed in the Port.
2. Shipowners.
3. Owners of sailing vessels.
4. Shippers.
5. Such other interests as in the opinion of Central Government ought to be represented on the Board.

(c) As of date, the post of Chairman, Madras Port Trust is vacant.

Violation of Traffic Rules and Safety Norms

2624. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what measures the Ministry propose to take in view of the recent Muzaffarnagar accident in which a large number of lives were lost;

(b) whether the traffic super safety norms are only observed in their violation on the Indian Roads; if so, whether Government would fix responsibility for such gross violations, resulting in the death of thousands of innocent people daily;

(c) whether these accidents occur also on account of the condition of roads being the same as they were 50 years ago; if so, whether Government would start construction of Express Highways and improve the condition of existing roads on priority basis; and

(d) whether the trucks, four wheelers

tractors traitors, buses and carts are plying on the Indian roads without back light, resulting in fatal accidents; if so, whether Government would consider to make such violations congnizable offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Government have already framed appropriate rules under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act which provide for necessary instructions regarding safe transportation of hazardous goods. Apropriate instructions are issued to the State Government from time to time to ensure proper implementation of these regulations. Violation of these norms is punishable both in terms of Motor Vehicles Act and other relevant laws of the land.

(c) The condition of road can be one of the causative factors in such accidents. However, development and maintenance of National Highways/Expressways is ;i continuous process and subject to the availability of funds, various schemes are approved and implemented for improving the conditions of roads.

(d) No, Sir. the Centra! Motor Vehicle Rules provide for fitment of signalling devices, direction indicators, stop lights, lamps (both front and rear), reflection lights, parking light, spot light etc. for different type of vehicles as per their dimensions. Violation of any of these requirements is also a punishable offence.

Maintenance of National Highways In Uttar Pradesh

2625. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the actual amount released so far for the maintenance and repair of National Highways during 1994-95; and

(b) what portion of the distressed stretches of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh still remains to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A sum of Rs. 1588.98 iakhs has been released so far to the Govt, of Uttar Pradesh for maintenance and repair of National Highways during 1994-95.

(b) Maintenance of the distressed stretches of the National Highways is a continuous process which is done within the available funds to keep the roads in traffic worthy condition.

'Pollution Under Check' Rule For Diesel Vehicles

2626. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pollution Under Check (PUC) rule is not applicable to diesel vehicles;

(b) if so, what is the mechanism by which the pollution of diesel vehicles would be kept under check; and

(c) what are the reasons for excluding diese) vehicles from PUC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFAQE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

गुजरात में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का रख-रखाव

2627. श्री जिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्लः क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की लम्बाई कितनी है;

(ख) राज्य में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के कित-किन खंडों में बाढ़ और तूफान के कारण हानि पहुंचने की संभावना रहती है;

(ग) इन्हें प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से बचाने के लिए